

Message Text

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O 202355Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 101446

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, US, PARM, MPOL

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR US-SOVIET
ARMS TRANSFER TALKS

1. WE ARE MAKING FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE US-SOVIET
TALKS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS IN HELSINKI. THE
FOLLOWING IS OUR LATEST INFORMATION ON THE SCHEDULE FOR
MEETINGS:

MAY 3 - 6 P.M. - HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING AT SOVIET
EMBASSY

MAY 4 - (?) A.M. - OPENING SESSION AT US EMBASSY

MAY 5 - (?) A.M. - SECOND SESSION AT SOVIET EMBASSY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 101446

MAY 6 - (?) A.M. - THIRD SESSION AT US EMBASSY

MAY 8 - (?) A.M. - FOURTH SESSION AT SOVIET EMBASSY

WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE MEETING
AND SOCIAL SCHEDULE THAT EMBASSY HAS FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH
SOVIET EMBASSY HELSINKI.

2. THE CONTINGENT COMING FROM WASHINGTON CONSISTS OF SEVENTEEN, AS FOLLOWS:

LESLIE H. GELB, PM, HEAD OF DELEGATION
BARRY M. BLECHMAN, ACDA, DEPUTY HEAD OF DELEGATION
JESSICA TUCHMAN MATTHEWS, NSC, MEMBER OF DELEGATION
GENERAL ROBERT SENNEWALD, JCS, MEMBER OF DELEGATION

----- BACK UP TEAM -----

GEORGE ALLEN, STATE
JIM MICHEL, STATE/L
GARY MATTHEWS, STATE/EUR/SOV
EDMUND FINEGOLD, ACDA
ANDREW THOMS, STATE/PM
JOHN MERRILL, JCS
JOHN ROWE, DOD/ISA
PRISCILLA A. CLAPP, STATE/PM
OLGA CUMBERLAND, STATE SECRETARY
GINA HERNANDEZ, ACDA SECRETARY
GREGORY PROCTOR, STATE SECRETARY
CYRIL MUROMCEW, INTERPRETER
DIMITRY ZARECHNAK, INTERPRETER

ONE ADDITIONAL MEMBER, RICHARD MILES, WILL BE JOINING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 101446

THE DELEGATION FROM EMBASSY MOSCOW.

IN PLENARY SESSIONS, WE EXPECT FOUR MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION PLUS ONE INTERPRETER TO SIT AT THE TABLE, WITH PERHAPS ONE ADDITIONAL SEAT AT THE TABLE FOR CONTINGENCY PURPOSES. BACK-UP MEMBERS (NOT SECRETARIES) WILL ALSO ATTEND PLENARY SESSIONS, ACCORDING TO AMOUNT OF SPACE AVAILABLE. THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE DECEMBER TALKS IN WASHINGTON NUMBERED TEN, ALL OF WHOM SAT AT THE TABLE. WE HAVE NO WORD YET ON THE SIZE OF THEIR CONTINGENT THIS TIME. EMBASSY'S ADVICE ON SEATING WOULD BE WELCOME.

3. THE OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE FOR THESE TALKS IS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE SOVIET UNION AND UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE THEIR CONSULTATIONS IN HELSINKI, FINLAND, BEGINNING MAY 4, 1978 ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE LIMITATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRADE. THE TWO SIDES MET PREVIOUSLY IN WASHINGTON FROM DECEMBER 14 THROUGH DECEMBER 19, 1977 FOR A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THIS TOPIC.

AMBASSADOR L. I. MENDELEVICH WILL REPRESENT THE SOVIET SIDE.
LESLIE H. GELB, DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF POLITICO-MILITARY

AFFAIRS, WILL REPRESENT THE AMERICAN SIDE."

RELEASE DATE IS APRIL 28TH. PLEASE HOLD UNTIL THEN. WE
SHALL RELY ON EMBASSY FOR PRESS ASSISTANCE, AND SHALL
PREPARE ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE IN CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY
UPON ARRIVAL.

4. AS OF NOW ALL MEMBERS OF WASHINGTON CONTINGENCY ARE
SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AND DEPART HELSINKI ON SAME FLIGHTS,
AS FOLLOWS.

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PAGE 04 STATE 101446

ARRIVE: MAY 2ND VIA BA-668, 3:00 P.M.
DEPART: MAY 9TH VIA AF-821, 7:10 A.M. CHRISTOPHER

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